# NEWS RELEASE



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#### COMMISSIONERS

Nelson C. Bellido Esq., CHAIR Dr. Judith Bernier, VICE-CHAIR Judge Lawrence A. Schwartz Jan Jacobowitz, Esq. Wifredo Gort

Executive Director Jose J. Arrojo, Esq.

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The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasijudicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of training, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to bolster public trust.

# Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on January 8, 2020

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on January 8, 2020.

## **Ethics Commission Introduces Newly Appointed Commissioner Wifredo Gort**

Former City of Miami Commissioner Wifredo "Willy" Gort was introduced as Commissioner for the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, replacing the late Jeffrey Cutler who passed away in September of this year.

## **Ethics Commission Selects New General Counsel**

After conducting six public interviews, the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust selected Ethics Commission Staff Attorney, Martha D. Perez, as the new Ethics Commission General Counsel.

### Continuance Granted in Case Involving Lobbyist Ron Book

<u>C19-39-10</u>: The Ethics Commission found no objection to a Motion of Continuance filed by the defense in a case involving lobbyist Ron Book.

# Complaint Dismissed in Case Involving Attorney Eddy Leal

<u>C19-30-08</u>: The Ethics Commission unanimously voted to approve the dismissal of a complaint filed against Eddy Leal, counsel to the City of Miami. The Ethics Commission also found no Probable Cause exists that Mr. Leal violated Section 2-11.1(m) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics. The commission heard presentations by Mr. Leal, his attorney David Winker, and the Commission Advocate, Michael Murawski.

#### **Ethics Commission Considers Voting Conflict Rules for Elected Officials**

Presentations were made by the Ethics Commission Executive Director, Jose Arrojo, and Robert Meyers of the law firm of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, regarding voting conflicts for elected officials considering traffic mitigating matters in small cities.